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15 August 1963



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*USSR - East Europe: Several East European party leaders are in the USSR, probably for informal consultations with Khrushchev and other top Soviet leaders.

Ulbricht and Gomulka are on vacation in the Caucasus. Kadar left Budapest, destination unknown, for a vacation on 7 August. Novotny reportedly was in the Black Sea area on 10 August.

Zhivkov and a high-ranking Bulgarian delegation arrived in the Soviet capital on 14 August, ostensibly to inaugurate a Bulgarian exhibit there. Gheorghiu-Dej is not known to have appeared in public since 4 August.

Ulbricht, Gomulka, and Kadar frequently spend part of their vacations with Khrushchev, using their sojourn for unhurried planning sessions. A meeting at this time attended by all of the Satellite leaders presumably would be devoted to a broader assessment than was possible at their last meeting three weeks ago of the consequences of the Sino-Soviet dispute. It could also include a review of Soviet foreign policy following the test ban agreement, and a discussion of Khrushchev's upcoming visit to Yugoslavia.

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Brazil: (In a private discussion with Ambassador Gordon, ex-President Kubitschek expressed his concern over the polarization of political opinion toward the extremes of left and right.)

(Indicating that he is actively preparing his campaign for the presidency in 1965, Kubitschek commented that President Goulart is "aiding and abetting" this polarization, and that anti-Communist Governor Lacerda "is not helping" to avert it. Kubitschek said he believes that a polarization of national politics between Lacerda and "someone like" pro-Communist Governor Arraes of Recife would be a disaster.)

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(Kubitschek characterized the regime's current campaign for constitutional amendments purporting to assist agrarian reform as "purely demagogic in purpose, and mainly designed to discredit Congress." Kubitschek strongly concurred in Ambassador Gordon's comment that present economic trends are toward increasing inflation and stagnation. He added that foreign and domestic investors are afraid to embark on any new long-term capital commitments.)

(Kubitschek also agreed with the ambassador's comment that in view of the present situation it is by no means certain that the country will be able to struggle through to the 1965 elections.)

(Commenting to Kubitschek on his own continuing concern over Goulart's seeming increasing susceptibility to pro-Communist pressure, Ambassador Gordon noted the absence of anyone with moderate views and balanced judgment in the immediate circle of presidential advisers.)

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Colombia: A new wave of Communist-led sabotage and violence against security personnel may be launched by the striking petroleum workers union (FEDEPETROL) in reprisal for the swift and unusually severe army action against the strikers on 12 August.

An army unit injured several strikers, and suffered injuries to several of its own men, and arrested at least 15 FEDEPETROL ringleaders after strikers had severed two major pipelines and seriously damaged the government-owned refinery at Barrancabameja. The city and surrounding territory were then placed under martial law.

Before the riot, FEDEPETROL spokesmen had threatened a nationwide petroleum strike if their demands were not fully met. Such a strike now is a strong possibility.

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South Vietnam: Buddhist leaders seem determined to pursue their campaign against the Diem government.

The two new suicides this month apparently were not sanctioned by the leaders. (However, [redacted]

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[redacted] the hierarchy had become less reluctant to grant such sanction.)

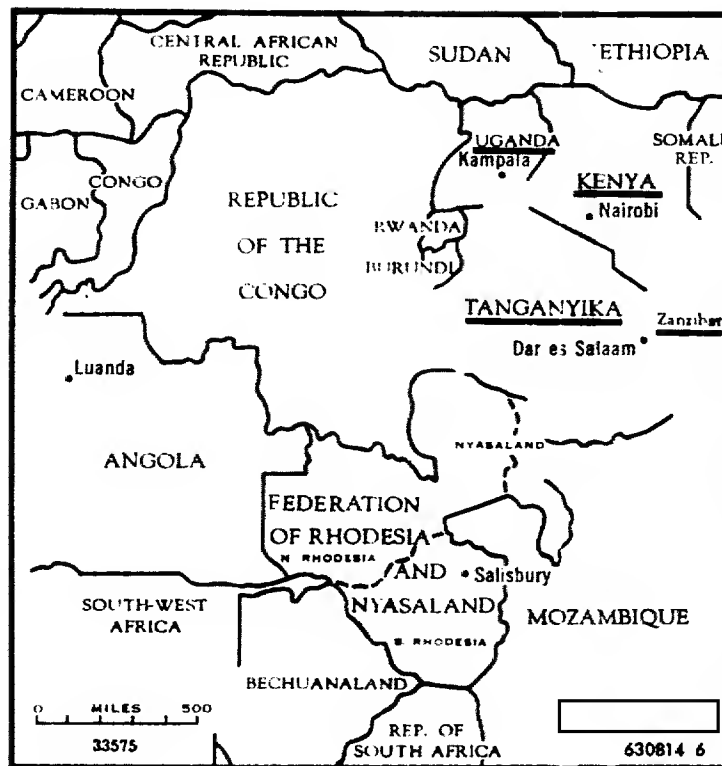
(An increasing number of monks and nuns are volunteering to sacrifice themselves. The Buddhist state of mind is illustrated by the [redacted] accusation that the government is planning to arrest the Buddhist leadership on charges of collaboration with the Viet Cong, coup plotting, and seeking foreign aid.)

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The government continues to offer assurances that it will follow a conciliatory policy. President Diem has told a US press correspondent that he still intends conciliation, whatever his relatives or other officials may say.

The Buddhists, however, will probably continue to claim that the government's acts contradict this policy. A clash in Hué on 14 August, in which five Buddhists were seriously injured by government troops who blocked a martyr's funeral for the latest suicide victim, will strengthen the Buddhists in their view.

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NOTES

*USSR: Moscow's relatively low-key reaction to the recent US underground nuclear test reflects Khrushchev's desire to maintain an atmosphere of detente and to avoid public statements which might jeopardize prospects for the nuclear test ban treaty's ratification. Soviet press commentators and spokesmen, while mildly critical, have refrained from attacking the underground test, and at Geneva the chief Soviet delegate to the Disarmament Conference referred to it as a "reminder" of the need for further moves to lessen international tension. In contrast, Communist China, in commenting briefly on the test, called it a "merciless mockery of those who bragged that the treaty would ease the nuclear arms race."

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East Africa: (Plans to form a federation of Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, and Zanzibar are stalled mainly because of Uganda's fear that it would become a junior partner to its more populous and larger neighbors. Working-level representatives from the four states have adjourned constitutional talks ahead of schedule and requested an early meeting of heads of government. Tanganyika's President Nyerere and Kenya's Prime Minister Kenyatta are reported to be determined to federate by December in any case, in the belief that Uganda will have to join them eventually.)

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Norway: Prime Minister Gerhardsen and his minority Labor government face a sharp challenge over an opposition no-confidence motion expected when parliament reconvenes on 19 August. The immediate issue is an investigative commission's report criticizing conditions at a government-operated Spitsbergen coal mine. If the four non-Communist opposition parties agree to use this pretext for an attempt to topple Gerhardsen, the government's fate would then depend on the two votes of the far left Socialist People's Party; the Labor Party holds 74 of the 150 seats.

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

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The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

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The Assistant Secretary of Defense

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Chief of Staff, United States Army

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Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

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The Director, The Joint Staff

The Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

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